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Agri-News

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Commercial Floriculture, Nursery, and Christmas Trees ``Industries that Continue to Grow and Thrive``

The Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS) will conduct the Commercial Floriculture and the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production surveys at the beginning of 2004. Data collected for Tennessee will be combined with other States to help determine the status of these dynamic industries. Debra K. Kenerson, State Statistician, commented, "The nursery and floriculture industry has more than doubled nationally from 1988 to 1998, with sales totaling \$10.9 billion in 2000. It is vital to record this growth so supporting industries and policy makers can provide necessary resources."

These surveys will be used to produce reliable, accurate data on key items such as area of production, product sold, and value of sales. Leaders from the Society of American Florists and the nursery industry encourage grower participation in these surveys, knowing it is crucial to have accurate data on the floriculture, nursery, and Christmas tree industries. Results from the Commercial Floriculture Production Survey are scheduled for release on April 27, 2004. Results from the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey are scheduled for release on July 26, 2004.

TASS works with growers and producers to provide meaningful, accurate, reliable, and objective statistics that help keep Tennessee agricultural industries informed. Growers gain important benefits from providing their responses to these surveys. The results are official estimates and will help ensure information is available to the public and the industry on floriculture, nursery, and Christmas tree production. Accurate industry statistics are crucial to obtaining research funding and government support on various issues.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," said Ms. Kenerson. "Data from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation."

Commercial Floriculture and Nursery and Christmas Tree Production statistics, hundreds of other commodity reports, and a full catalog of NASS products and services, are available on the NASS Homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/. For other information, e-mail NASS@nass.usda.gov or call 1-800-727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.

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